QUEST FOR THE UNKNOWN - EXPLORERS OF TODAY
BY ROY PINNEY
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QUEST FOR THE UNKNOWN

Explorers of Today

by ROY PINNEY

Illustrated with photographs

Why do men and women today become explorers? To satisfy curiosity; to test willpower and endurance; to achieve fame; to discover the past; to increase our geographic or scientific knowledge; to gather materials for books and motion pictures; to make money; to collect animals or plants; to find the peace of nature or to observe life among primitive peoples; to find adventure.

The lure of caves is as old as exploration. In 1962, seven teen-aged boys entered Sullivan Cave in Indiana for a two-week isolation period of exploration, conservation, and other underground scientific studies. When they emerged the cave had been conquered.

This is just one of the exciting stories this book contains about the areas of exploration in the world today. Searching for King Solomon's Mines, discovering new botanical specimens from the jungles of South America, scanning the floor of the Mediterranean—these and many more daring undertakings are told in Roy Pinney's vivid style that has made all of his books popular with young readers.

Jacket photo:
Caravan across the Gobi desert, Asiatic expedition for the American Museum of Natural History. Copyright © Roy Chapman Andrews.

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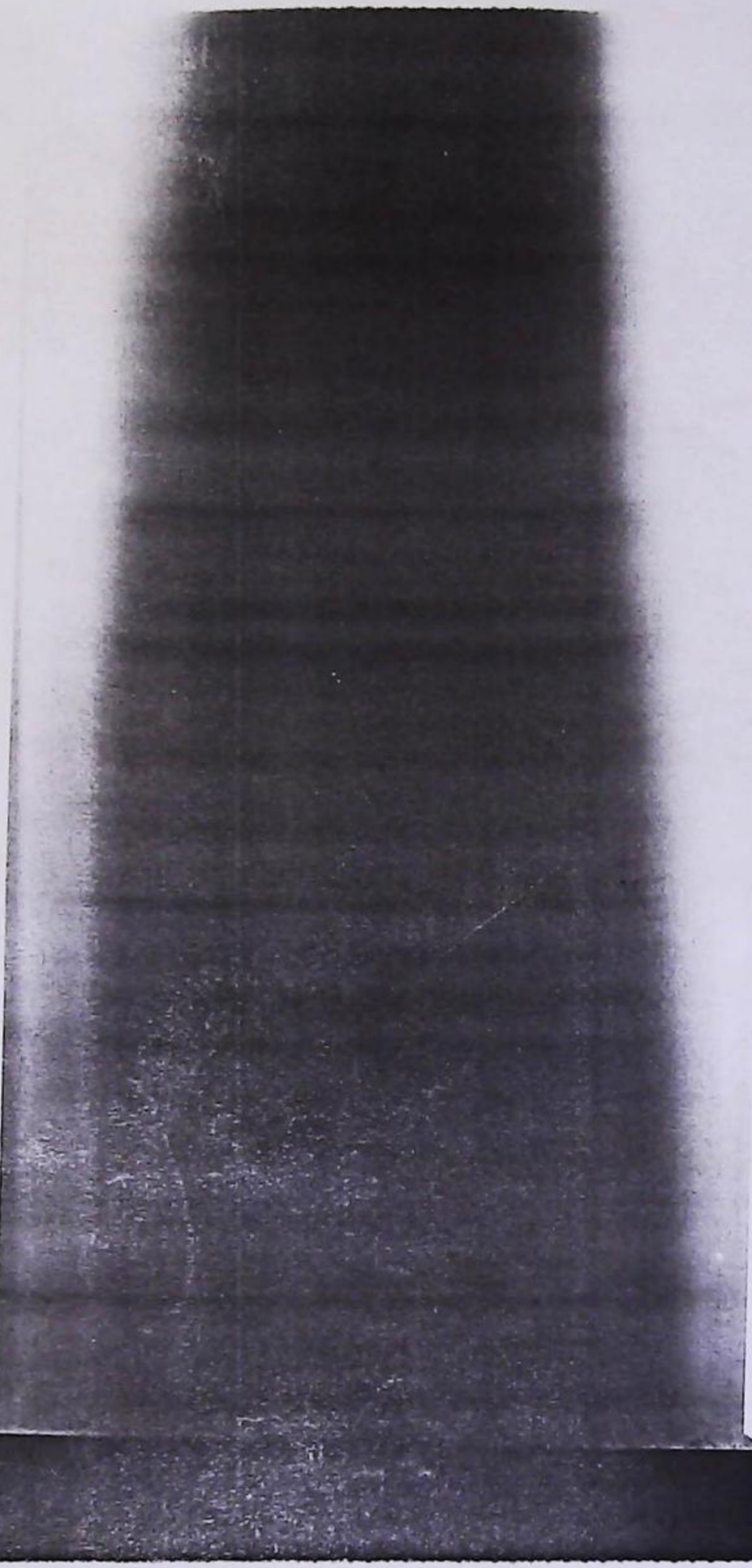

The Author

The natural sciences are the chosen domain of exploration for photo-naturalist Roy Pinney. Armed with cameras, notebooks, and tape recorder, he has accompanied more than eighty expeditions to all parts of the world and has reported his findings in numerous books, articles, and films.

Born in New York City, Mr. Pinney has studied at Columbia, New York, and Syracuse universities. He was at one time the Brooklyn Museum's Curator of Natural History and has taught at the School of Modern Photography in New York City. As a war correspondent-photographer covering the Normandy invasion, he qualified as a pilot and did aerial photography, and also developed special equipment and techniques for underwater photography. He has recently filmed two television series, "Wild Cargo" and "Wild Kingdom," and his commercial film "Turn Around Boys" won first prize in its category at the 1963 Cannes Film Festival.

Mr. Pinney is founder and past president of the Picture Agency Council of America, founder and trustee of the American Society of Magazine Photographers, and founder and president of Photo-Library, Inc., a worldwide picture agency.

Among his many books are *Wild Animal Pets*, *Advertising Photography*, *Cave Exploration*, *Atomic Survival*, *Vanishing Wildlife*, *Animals, Inc.*, *Animals in the Bible*, and *Careers with a Camera*.

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by Roy Pinney

CAREERS WITH A CAMERA

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such as "My uncle ..... " must be completed.

Seven days before entering the cave the boys took the tests. They took them again after seven days in the cave, and a third time seven days after they had come out of the cave. Several trends could be noted from the results. For example, hypochondria decreased underground. So did the amount of hysteria in each personality, along with the incidence of hypomania—one's susceptibility to overexcitement. Contact with reality seemed to become firmer in the cave, as did interest in others. On the basis of the test results, the seven spelunkers appeared to be better adapted in the cave than they were at home!

Michael Wischmeyer and his friends have pioneered a new area in the exploration of the self. They have suggested a new approach for psychologists to follow up. Their sojourn in Sullivan Cave may someday prove even more eventful in the field of psychiatry than it was in the field of speleology.

On August 25, 1962, the expedition came to an end. The explorers closed up their camp and worked their way back to the cave's mouth, where they were greeted not by the sun, which they had not seen for two weeks, but by a gray sky and heavy rain. It seemed to matter not at all. Each felt a sense of thrill and satisfaction. The mission was accomplished, the cave had been conquered, and perhaps they understood themselves a little better as well.

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The Case for the Abominable Snowman

MOST MEN, securely fastened down by the demands of everyday living, can do little but speculate upon the lost places of the earth and the as yet undiscovered creatures that may inhabit them. Speculate . . . theorize . . . dream . . . and no more.

But from time to time a man may appear who is fired with an indeflectable determination to explore the unknown. Such a man is Ivan Terence Sanderson, author, zoologist, and traveler.

Sanderson is not a man to accept fancy for fact, to accept rumor as truth. He is a man who seeks his own answers, his own proofs, his own truths.

One facet of this yearning to discover the truth has impelled Sanderson to attempt to establish finally and without a doubt the existence of the Abominable Snowman, the creature about whom there have been so many astounding reports over the past several decades.

The Western world first heard of the Abominable Snowman

in 1887, when tracks were discovered in the Himalayan mountains of Sikkim. The tracks were said to have been made by a huge, manlike creature which natives from time to time reported seeing making its way across the dim, snowy mountain slopes. In the ensuing years, all efforts of mountaineers, explorers, and scientists to establish the existence and identity of the creature were of no avail.

It was this long, unsuccessful search for the Abominable Snowman that so attracted and fascinated Sanderson that he took up the task himself. His research over a period of years not only uncovered evidence pointing to the existence of the Snowman of the Himalayas, but of an entire species of subhumans scattered over four continents.

Several years ago, as the result of his investigations, Sanderson wrote a book on the subject titled *Abominable Snowman: Legend Come to Life*. In his book he urges readers to abandon their preconceived ideas and prejudices and take a fresh, impartial look at the problem.

Sanderson began by collecting all available data. One of the most curious tales he dug up about the Snowman was one related by Albert Ostman, a well-to-do lumberman and prospector. Sanderson interviewed Ostman in 1957 about an incident which had happened in 1924. Ostman reported that while on vacation in a remote area on the mainland opposite Vancouver Island, British Columbia, he had been seized and carried off by a *Sasquatch* (the local name for Snowman). He was the captive of the Sasquatch and his "family"—a female and two offspring—for several days.

Ostman described an uncomfortable ride at the bottom of his sleeping bag which was slung over the shoulder of his captor

who trudged about thirty miles before finally dumping him out in a secluded valley. His "hosts" were hairy, wore no clothing, and stood between seven and eight feet tall. They communicated with each other in a speech-like gibberish and, although they fed him and did not harm him, they forcefully prevented him from leaving. After a week, Ostman escaped when the male Sasquatch, who had developed a liking for his snuff, swallowed a whole box of the stuff in a gulp. In the resulting screeching and confusion, Ostman grabbed his rifle and ran for an opening in the surrounding mountains. He made his way to a settlement and then back to Vancouver.

Other accounts of appearances of the Snowman were investigated extensively by Sanderson—among them an appearance in 1958 of the creature in the vicinity of Bluff Creek, California.

One of Sanderson's findings is that the Klamath Forest of northern California, less than one hundred miles from San Francisco, harbors a type of Snowman which is locally called "Bigfeet."

The area is a thickly forested seventeen-thousand-square-mile block of territory. The terrain, although not mountainous, is rugged and hilly without a level square mile in it. Although bisected by a road, it is sparsely settled except for an occasional camper or logger. While there are U.S. Geodetic Survey maps for it, these are based on an unofficial survey made in 1859. It is a perfect place in which to hide and live.

Sanderson points to other heavily forested areas which are isolated and unsettled, such as the bottomlands of the Mississippi Valley and its tributaries. Since modern man finds it hard to survive in these regions, he has abandoned them to his earlier cousin, the humanoid Snowman.

British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon all abound with stories of Snowmen. The Indians of this region have many tales to tell of Snowmen or Sasquatches who have kidnapped their women and children. These tales have been perpetuated by the white man, beginning in 1864 with a report by one Alexander Caulfield Anderson, an explorer and executive of the Hudson's Bay Company. Anderson told of hairy humanoids who peppered his party with rocks several times during their trip.

Twenty years later the *Daily British Colonist* related the capture of a creature which was "half man and half beast" by train passengers near Yale, British Columbia. The man-beast was given a name, "Jacko," and kept in captivity for some time. Sanderson cites an interview with an elderly man in 1946 who recalled having seen Jacko.

The stories of encounters with the Sasquatches have continued to this day. Since 1901, there have been fourteen actual face-to-face meetings, usually confirmed by more than one witness. The accounts are so numerous that the Chamber of Commerce of Harrison Lake, the leading resort area of Vancouver, now uses large cutouts of the creature to advertise its town. The replicas are posted along the highways in front of motels, garages, bakeries, cleaning stores, and speedboat emporiums.

One of the most vivid tales of North American Snowmen was related by Theodore Roosevelt in his book *Wilderness Hunter*, published in 1892. As Sanderson points out, Roosevelt was not a man easily fooled. He was knowledgeable in the natural sciences and was intolerant of what he called "Nature-Fakery." Although Roosevelt himself did not see a Snowman, he was impressed by a spine-tingling tale told to him by an old mountain hunter named Bauman. Bauman and a partner were hunting

and trapping in the mountains of Idaho. Their encampment suffered raids and stalking by a Snowman, so alarming the pair that they decided to return to civilization. But before they could gather up their traps and break camp, Bauman's partner was attacked and murdered by the beast-creature.

A little-known aspect of "ABSMery," Sanderson's term for the study of Snowmen, is the Russian interest in the subject. The creatures have been reported in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and eastern Siberia. In fact, the Russians took the matter seriously enough to set up a special commission to study the Snowman in 1957. Historical material was collected and scientific expeditions were sent out to the Caucasus, the Everest bloc, Mongolia, and the Pamir Mountains. The conclusions of the study have been published in booklets and in scientific magazines in the U.S.S.R.

Sanderson has accumulated an impressive array of evidence about the Snowman. With characteristic thoroughness, he has taken great pains to sift it to eliminate spurious accounts. He does not hesitate to reject a story which he considers MLF—myth-legend-folklore. For instance, in 1959 a Los Angeles newspaper printed a weird, half-humorous yarn about a driver who was attacked in his car by a scaly monster with fluorescent eyes. Sanderson calls this a "red herring" and feels that it sets back the accumulation of really valid data because it discourages people from taking significant reports seriously.

After years of careful study, Sanderson came to the unqualified conclusion that the Abominable Snowman is no hoax. The creature exists, he firmly believes, on at least five continents, including North America. The only continent on which no reports or traces have been found are Australia and Antarctica.

Sanderson admits that no single Abominable Snowman has

been preserved for proper scientific study either dead or alive. However, half a dozen are alleged to have been shot and examined in the field. One was captured alive in British Columbia, another in Russia and examined by an Army doctor in 1943. All attempts at photographing them have resulted in failure. The only solid evidence to support the thousands of reports are two freshly buried skulls, some droppings, some bunches of hair, and miles of giant, unexplained tracks in isolated areas.

The footprints have been examined in great detail. Sanderson maintains that ichnology, the study of footprints, is a truly scientific basis for inferring the existence of Snowmen. He says that the size, weight, gait, and many other facts about an animal can be deduced from footprints. The study of footprints also includes a knowledge of what different soils or snow will do to a footprint. The huge size of the footprints of the Himalayan Snowmen, for instance, is attributed to the tendency of snow to melt and spread. Sanderson's wife's bootprints in deep snow were used to demonstrate that a small print, if left alone for a few days, will expand to an astonishing size. However, the distance between the prints or the stride will remain the same.

Using drawings and sketches for comparison, Sanderson has shown that the Snowmen's prints are more like those of humans than those of bears. This disposes of the argument that the creatures are really just bears. An interesting sidelight is the translation of the footprints into shoe equivalents. Taking one print which was 15¾ inches long and 7 inches wide, a shoe expert found that the needed shoe size would be a No. 21 shoe with an EEE width—thirteen sizes greater than the widest shoe now made.

Despite the lack of concrete evidence, Sanderson's contention

Ivan Sanderson (Ron Pinnock)

is that there is no valid argument *against* the existence of the Abominable Snowman. He believes there is evidence enough to indicate that such manlike creatures do exist, and not only in the Himalayan Mountains, but also in certain African forests, in Alaska, British Columbia, northern California, and the northeastern United States, in regions of the U.S.S.R., in Central and South America, and on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

Astounding reports that cannot be entirely discounted have come from all these regions. The reports differ greatly as to form but agree in substance on several important aspects.

In one area gigantic hairy men have been seen stalking through the forests. In another, reports describe small hairy men who raided lonely camps to feed upon garbage or to make off with equipment or trinkets. Other stories have been brought back to civilization about hairy monsters, walking on two legs, who were driven off when they attacked cattle.

Although the descriptions of the creatures vary as to size and several other characteristics, Sanderson has found significant agreement on one point—all the reports said the creatures were as hairy as apes yet unmistakably manlike in form. A strange, chilling, high-pitched cry and an objectionable animal-like smell were also commonly reported.

With the evidence in hand, Sanderson is convinced that at least four types of ultraprimitive men, sub-men or sub-hominoids —or some variation of these classifications—still exist in isolated areas of the world.

These areas are all regions of mountainous forest or forested lowlands. The distribution of the Snowmen follows the pattern of distribution of mountains and impenetrable forests all over the world. Actually, as Sanderson points out, "Snowman" is

a misnomer. Most of the creatures are below the snow belt and rarely venture into the snow.

Stories about Snowmen become part of the general knowledge of an area and local names are given them by the local citizenry. Sanderson has found literally hundreds of such names. He lists twenty-six names for the East Eurasian–Himalayan region alone. Despite the different regional names, the descriptions have much in common and can be sorted out to identify four different types. These are:

1. The "neo-giants"—these are seven to eight feet tall; live in Southeast Asia, East Eurasia, North and South America; inhabit the higher elevations; and occasionally go out into snow. They have human-type feet and short, thick, hairy fur, and are partially carnivorous.
2. The "sub-humans"—these are of average human size, live in East Eurasia and the Orient in higher mountainous forests and seldom go into the snow. They have pointed heads and short, broad feet with large toes, longer darker hair, and are vegetarian or omnivorous.
3. The "proto-pygmies"—these are smaller than man, live in the Orient, Africa, and South America in forested valleys and bottomlands. They have small feet with pointed heels, are covered with fur and have a mane down their backs.
4. The "sub-hominoids"—these are only found in South Central Eurasia—which is fortunate, for Sanderson describes them as "excessively bestial." They are man-sized but apelike in appearance, and live in the upper reaches of mountainous forests. They have short, broad feet with the second toe longer than the first one and widely

separated from it. They are covered with thick, short, hairy fur, and are omnivorous, although mostly carnivorous.

Sanderson believes that modern technology has made imminent the actual taking of an Abominable Snowman. He points out that the discovery of the living fossil, the Coelacanth (see page 49), a fish millions of years old, shook the world of science and silenced skeptics who had refused to concede the possibility of its existence. The Coelacanth had been mentioned in Chinese manuscripts of the seventh century. However, it had not been seen in 1200 years and fossil evidence seemed to rule out its present existence. No fossils had been found in fossil deposits more recent than those laid down 60 million years before. Lacking concrete evidence of its continued presence, scientists classified it as an extinct species.

The Giant Panda is an animal about whom tales were told for many years before one was captured. From 1869 until 1929, skilled animal collectors sought the Giant Panda in a small section of western China without success. In 1929, an animal was shot and belief in the Panda was confirmed. It was another ten years before a live Panda was captured.

"Man must believe before he looks, and must look before he finds anything." This is the credo of George A. Agogino, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan, in his foreword to Sanderson's book.

While the case for the Abominable Snowman is as yet fragmentary, circumstantial, and inconclusive, Ivan Sanderson has supreme confidence that at almost any time the entire world will be shaken by the most astounding zoological discovery ever made.

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Coelacanth

On December 22, 1938, Miss M. Courtenay-Latimer, curator of the East London Museum in South Africa, visited the city's docks to watch the fishermen unload their catch. It was a routine part of her job to watch for rare specimens to add to the museum's collection. Strolling through the bustling piers, she stopped to watch the men unload the *Nerine*, a small fishing vessel captained by a man named Goosen. Suddenly, a fish lying among a number of common sharks caught her eye. It was like nothing she had ever seen. Its five-foot-long body was covered with steel-blue scales, and its greenish eyes glowed with a light of their own. Intrigued, Miss Courtenay-Latimer had the hundred-and-seventy-five-pound fish dragged to the museum and began to study it.

At the same time, Professor J. L. B. Smith, South Africa's leading icthyologist, was taking a well-earned vacation, basking in the warm December sun at remote Knysna, far from the activity of Rhodes University College where he taught and carried on